

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 001009

SIPDIS

DEPT ALSO FOR USAID - DCHA/OFDA

GENEVA FOR UNDRO AND LRCS

USCINCCENT ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AEMR](#) [AMGT](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [EAID](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 3

REF: KUWAIT 999

¶1. SITREP NO. 3 AS OF 1159 HOURS LOCAL, 0359 HOURS WASHINGTON TIME.

¶2. EVENTS SINCE LAST SITREP:

Security

All reported times are Kuwait Local, GMT plus three.

At 0615hrs on 20 March 2003, POTUS addressed the nation and stated that American and Coalition Forces were in the early stages of military action in Iraq and have begun to strike selected military targets in Iraq.

At 0625hrs, Ops Center received a call from White House Situation Room requesting Embassy to facilitate a conference call between POTUS and Kuwaiti FM at 1720 local time to discuss the current security situation.

At 0700hrs, Op Center received State 72913 NIACT Immediate (Beginning of Military Operations), State 72914 NIACT Immediate (Middle East Notice to Mariners & Airmen), State 72915 NIACT Immediate (Public Announcement Middle East and North Africa Update), State 72918 NIACT Immediate (Public Announcement Worldwide Caution). The text of both Public Announcements was distributed as a Warden message to AMCITS in Kuwait.

Military

US military reports sighting of one (otherwise undefined) "missile" followed by a large explosion in the far north of the country in the military zone. There is also one report of a downed Cessna aircraft in the same area. CJTF/CM on the scene reports preliminarily that there are no detectable chemical or biological agents. Embassy continues to pursue details with US military and will report as soon as possible. Embassy is in close consultation with the MFA, as well.

State 72914 (Notice to Mariners and Airmen) passed to OMC-K for immediate notification of Kuwaiti Navy and Air Force contacts. Post also notified Kuwait Petroleum Corporation contacts. Post made contact with Zuhair Al-Zamal, Civil Aviation, at 0930hrs and passed message.

Political

Ref Kuwait 1007, Kuwaiti government notified Ambassador that they want/want to be listed as members of the Coalition.

Kuwait MFA has established an Emergency Committee (24-hour Operations Center) and provided Embassy with contact numbers.

Consular

CA/OCS/ACS/NESA called to provide Op Center with information on a CLASS name-check hit for an AMCIT who had requested issuance of an emergency passport for urgent travel out of Kuwait. Department informed that the name-check hit did not/not apply to the AMCIT and authorized post to issue the AMCIT a limited validity emergency passport. CONS issued the passport at 0930AM on March 20, 2003.

At 0800hrs, CONS distributed two separate Warden messages to the American citizen community in Kuwait. One message contained pre-cleared language regarding the commencement

of military action in Iraq. The other contained the texts of the Public Announcement Worldwide Caution and Public Announcement Middle East and North Africa Update dated March 20, 2003. CONS sent the Warden messages via email and fax, and paged all Wardens on their mobile phones to alert them to the existence of the messages. The messages are being posted on the Embassy web-site and recorded on the Embassy's automated 24-hour Warden message telephone recording in both English and Arabic.

At 1005hrs, AMCIT called to ask if the Embassy would be able to issue her newborn child (born on 08 March 2003 in Kuwait) an emergency passport for immediate travel even though the child has not/not yet been documented as an American citizen. AMCIT claimed she has been unable to obtain an official Kuwaiti birth certificate or apply for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad for the child. CONS agreed to issue the child an emergency limited-validity passport for urgent travel. AMCIT will come to the Embassy, Consular Section, today.

CONS booked reservations for two AMCITS (mother and minor child) to depart Kuwait for Dubai today at 1600hrs. CONS provided 7 other AMCITS (and their family members) with flight reservation information and contact details for a local travel agency able to assist in booking the tickets. These AMCITS will be able to depart Kuwait for Dubai on the same flight at 1600hrs today. One other AMCIT who had requested Embassy assistance in departing Kuwait declined to accept booking on a flight today and has decided to depart Kuwait tomorrow. All cases reported in SITREP 2 have now been resolved. No other cases have been reported at this time.

All European air carriers have suspended service to Kuwait. Kuwait Airways, Emirates and several other carriers continue to operate.

Management

Embassy communications operations are now at 24/7 and the Embassy's Health Unit has gone to extended hours.

Pending Issues

Embassy is awaiting confirmation of conference call with White House Situation Room.

13. COMMENTS: None

14. STATUS OF PENDING REQUESTS: See above.

JONES